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## Our Mission

The goal of the College Preparatory Academy is to prepare students for the rigor of post-secondary education at the college or university of their choice. Completion of the College Preparatory curriculum will give students the analytical, communication and research skills to be successful in college and ultimately achieve their career goals. Students may apply to College Preparatory Academy before the beginning of their 9th or 10th grade years.

## Advantages

- Preparation for college through a rigorous academic program.
- Development of problem-solving, analytical and critical thinking skills.
- Development of communication and research skills.
- Flexibility in course selection.
- Potential college credit through Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment courses.
- PSAT, SAT, and ACT preparation.
- Workshops offered to help with college application (essay and resume writing, interview skills, etc.)

## AP Capstone Program

All MHS College Preparatory Academy students will have the exclusive opportunity to take two AP Capstone courses. AP Capstone™ is a diploma program offered through College Board and is founded on two AP courses: **AP Seminar** and **AP Research**. These yearlong courses focus on developing the critical thinking, research, collaboration, time management, and presentation skills you need for college-level work. AP Seminar is offered to sophomores and AP Research is offered to juniors.

- Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research, will receive the **AP Seminar and Research Certificate™**.
- Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research, *and* on four additional AP Exams of their choice, will receive the **AP Capstone Diploma™**.



## Completion Options

Students in the MHS College Preparatory Academy will have the option to choose their completion path. Tier 1 completers must meet a set list of minimum requirements that were specifically chosen to ensure these students will be strong applicants for colleges and universities. Tier 2 and 3 completers must meet the Tier 1 requirements, as well as courses for the AP Capstone program. These tiers allow students to further challenge themselves and earn additional knowledge, skills and recognition.

### Tier 1: College Preparatory Academy Completer

Students who meet the following requirements will be recognized as an MHS College Preparatory Completer at graduation.

- Complete a minimum of 6 AP and/or dual enrollment courses on Manatee High School campus
  - Online courses do not count toward this requirement.
  - *\*At least 2 AP/DE courses must be taken on campus during both Junior and Senior years.*
- Earn a minimum unweighted B average in CPA and/or AP courses each year with no D's for semester grades
- Complete at least 2 consecutive years of a foreign language
- Exhibit acceptable behavior each year
- Display proficiency on all state assessments each year
- Pass at least one AP exam prior to senior year
- Take the PSAT during 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> grades
- Complete at least 75 community service hours
- Earn at least an 1170 SAT or 26 ACT scores

### Tier 2: College Preparatory Academy Completer with Merit

Students who wish to complete the MHS College Preparatory Academy *with Merit* must meet all the requirements for Tier 1, as well as earn the AP Seminar and Research Certificate™.

### Tier 3: College Preparatory Academy Completer with Distinction

Students who wish to complete the MHS College Preparatory Academy *with Distinction* must meet all the requirements for Tier 1, as well as earn the AP Capstone Diploma™.

## Course Work

### Grades 9 and 10

During 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades, students will be enrolled in the prescribed College Preparatory courses in English, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies. These courses are designed to prepare students to be successful in AP and dual enrollment courses by developing analytical and critical thinking skills. Furthermore, 9<sup>th</sup> grade students will have the opportunity to take their first AP course, AP Human Geography.

*\*Students are strongly recommended to work on their foreign language requirement during these years.*

### Grades 11 and 12

During 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades, students are encouraged to continue challenging themselves by registering for rigorous courses. However, they will have the freedom to choose AP/Dual Enrollment classes that they are most interested in. *It is required that students enroll in at least 2 AP and/or Dual Enrollment classes on campus during each of these years.*

